



Adult Education in Yuma County

Fiscal Year 2002

Adult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8th grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Yuma County in FY2002:

Federal dollars:	\$123,200
State dollars:	\$286,800

The Need for Adult Education In Yuma County

In Yuma County, **41,470*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **13,033*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language.

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

In Arizona, **only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded**. 4 certified programs provide adult education throughout Yuma County:

- **Crane Elementary School District**
- **South Yuma County Consortium** (Somerton School District, Chicanos Por La Causa, Arizona Western College)
- **Yuma Elementary School District #1**
- **Yuma Reading Council**

Yuma County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- **1,356 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes**
- **97,457 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes**
- **\$4.21 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education**
- **\$302.36 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student**
(compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- **424 of 1,202 students (35%) improved more than two grade levels**
- **75 of 399 students (19%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma**
- **48 of 261 students (18%) who sought a job found employment**
- **29 of 174 students (17%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful**
- **12 of 36 students (33%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education**

Family Literacy in Yuma County

Fiscal Year 2002

Arizona Family Literacy provides comprehensive literacy programs to families who have Yuma County's lowest incomes (**90% have incomes under \$25,000**), lowest levels of adult literacy, and who have one or more preschool-aged children. Arizona Family Literacy programs integrate literacy instruction into six service components:

- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Adult Basic Education**
- **Parent Involvement Education**
- **Parent-child Literacy Activities**
- **Community Service/Volunteering**
- **Home-based Instruction**

Family Literacy Services must be of **sufficient intensity and duration** to make sustainable changes in the family including: **preparing the child to enter kindergarten ready to learn**, and **supporting the parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher**.

During the 2001-2002 program year, **71% of the children made significant language gains while 60% of the five year olds showed "readiness for kindergarten"**. Because of the intensity of the programming, **76% of Family Literacy parents improved more than two grade levels**.

Yuma County Family Literacy Data for Fiscal Year 2002

Program	Sites	Families Served
Crane Elementary School District	2	55
Somerton School District	1	22

- **Leveraging state family literacy funds with federal Even Start dollars enabled two programs to operate three Family Literacy sites**
- **77 families (over 150 people) were served throughout Yuma County**
- **Parents contributed 9,740 community service hours, which equals \$50,161 of in-kind benefits to the community (based on \$5.15 per hour, minimum wage)**

GED Testing in Yuma County

Fiscal Year 2002

What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the state's adult education allocation.

511 High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued in Yuma County